

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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The Honorable Mark C. Christie
Chairman
State Corporation Commission
PO Box 1197
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Dear Judge Christie:

I have noted recent press reports that the State Corporation Commission (SCC) public hearings for the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) project have been scheduled for early August. I will testify at one of the hearings.

I want to reiterate my recommendation that at least one commissioner be present at each hearing and emphasize the importance of the commissioners personally hearing the case made by citizens who will be affected by these massive power lines. These citizens deserve to be heard as their homes and lives could be significantly altered by a project of this magnitude. I am also disappointed that to date I have not received a response to this suggestion which I first proposed in my May 26 letter to all three SCC commissioners.

My argument about why it is not sufficient to send a hearing examiner to report back to commissioners on their findings is supported by the enclosed letter to the editor from a constituent in Leesburg, Virginia that was in the June 12 *Leesburg Today*. He makes excellent points about the faults in the process that he and others experienced in regard to the approval of the Pleasant View-Hamilton transmission line.

I believe that by attending one of the hearings, each commissioner would get a better perspective to assist your decision-making process. My faith in the SCC's ability to fairly balance citizens' views with those of the industries it regulates has deteriorated. Efforts need to be taken to assure that the public is being heard and your visibility at the public hearings would be a big step in that direction.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

I really want to appreciate you
attending the hearings. Thank you